

~~TOP SECRET~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
NGO BRANCH

7

22

File No. 25/15/NGO-52

Subject :— ~~Don~~ Allegations about the misappropriation of I.N.A. property by Mr. Ramamurti, a former official of the India Independence League of Tokyo, Japan.

Passed to	On	Passed to	On	Passed to	On
<div>Declassified</div>					
<div>ARUN KUMAR CH. (ARUN KUMAR CH. Joint Secretary (CNV) Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi)</div>					
<div>30 yrs</div>					
<div>have been</div>					
<div>Declassify</div>					
<div>keep</div>					
<div>28/12/15</div>					
<div>Pages</div>					
<div>Notes - 1-2</div>					
<div>CORR - 1-18</div>					
<div>Total 20</div>					



Ministry of External Affairs
(NGO Branch)

D.No. 1099-NGO/53

FR

What action can we take on this?

Sd/- R.K. Nehru
30.3.53

A similar letter was received in this Ministry also from Mr. V.B. Sheth. This has been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Mr. U.K. Ghoshal) under our u/o No. 505-NGO/53 dated the 25th March 1953, who, it is presumed, will take such action as is considered necessary.

Sec
2.4.53 AB
2.4.53

D.S. (FEA)

We should like to know what action the Home Ministry propose to take in regard to these allegations against Shri Ram Murti.

Shri Nait
2.4.53

PRIORITY

496B

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of External Affairs.

No. No. D. 1099-NGO/53 of 4/4

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

The previous reference of the Ministry of E.A. is placed below. It will be noted that on that occasion what we were asked to do was to keep an eye on Shri Ram Murti and his activities (our Tokyo Embassy's letter of 27.1.1953) and the Intelligence Bureau has already taken steps to comply with this request. Beyond this it is difficult to see what the Home Ministry can do. If Shri Ram Murti or anybody else has been guilty of misappropriation of funds belonging to the Indian Independence League or the Azad Hind Government, no tangible evidence is likely to be available in this country. This is quite obvious from even the allegations

Pl send
to return to
C. B. J.
Sec
20/4/53

that Shri Sheth has been making. Our people cannot conduct any formal investigation in foreign countries, and it would be necessary to enlist the assistance of the police of Burma, Thailand and Japan. I am not sure whether the Ministry of E.A. would consider it desirable - on grounds of policy - to take this sort of action.

Sheth 15/4.
15.4.53.
(U.K. Ghoshal)
Deputy Secretary

his
Ministry of E.A. (~~Mr.~~ Naidu) *16.4.*

M.H.A. u/o no. S-504/53-L 15.4.53

NGO
D. No. 1223-1450
Sheth
16.4.53

7
Ministry of External Affairs
(NGO Branch)

D.S.(FEA) may like to show the Ministry of Home Affairs u/o note above to Foreign Secretary with reference to his note on the F.R.

(NGO file No.25/4/NGO, which was linked with this file, has been removed and submitted to J.S.(AD) in another connection.)

see
17.4.53
QB

D.S.(FEA)

8

We have been receiving a largish number of letters, from interested individuals, about the I.N.A. property. The main theme is that a considerable portion of this property was misappropriated by Mr. Ram Murti, a former officer of the I.N.A. As he is at present in India, Government have been urged to take action against him. We referred the matter to the Home Ministry who have made it clear, in their note above, that they can do little beyond keeping an eye on Mr. Ram Murti's activities during his stay in India.

9
I agree that we cannot do more. We cannot - or even consider a formal investigation in other countries
17.4.53.

Sheth
20.4.53

F.S.

Parth
18.4.53

10
The Deputy Minister may be interested to see the notes above, from page 1.

20.4.
NGO

Deputy Minister

11
Seen. Thanks
Anil Khandu 19/4/53.

see (FEA)

(1)

①

D. No. 1099-1120/53

H.M's Personal Section.

The P.U.C. is a letter from Shri V.B.Seth, former Secretary of Indian Independence League in Japan, Tokyo. He has stated that one person, Shri Rama Murti, took the jewels and precious articles belonging to the above League, in three boxes, from Shri Iyer, Minister of Information, Azad Hind Government and disposed off these things in Japan. He is now a multi-millionaire and running a very prosperous business. At present he is in India, most probably at Marina Hotel, New Delhi.

Shri Seth now requests the Government of India to take appropriate action against Shri Murti to recover the amount misappropriated by him. He has given the extracts of the some of the newspapers to support his arguments against Shri Murti.

This is for
DS (FEA), I think
H. Dayal

21.3.53
AD (FEA)
Information
on violation only

Submitted

✓ Rajinikanth
18/3
Private Secy. Home Minister

Don't know
H.A.

Secretary, External Affairs may like to see.

Secy (ME A)

Itd K.N.K. 29/3

(2)

Dear Sir,

I shall be highly grateful if you will kindly take into consideration the following account, especially when it reflects the deep concern of the Indian Community in Japan regarding the restoration of the treasure and jewels of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Indian Community in Japan is eager to compel Rama Murti, a former official of the defunct Indian Independence League in Eastern Asia, to give a full account of what he has done with the said treasure and jewels, the value which in August 1945 was estimated at Rs. 80 lakhs.

It is known to every member of the Indian Community in Japan that the through accomplices, Indians, Japanese and British, have disposed of the said treasure and jewels and has thus enriched himself so much so that he has become a multi millionaire. Further Rama Murti has never accounted for the League funds which he were held in his custody.

All former members of the Indian Independence League in Japan are eager in this matter. They earnestly request you and the Indian public to make all possible agitation for the recovery of the said treasure and jewels. Rama Murti is at present in India, probably in New Delhi at Marina Hotel. In Tokyo the Customs authorities are awaiting for his return in order to prosecute him for evasion of Customs duties to the tune of about 2000,000.yens. This shows that he has no character.

Also the attached extracts from the English Mainichi, Tokyo, and Nippon Times, Tokyo, will indicate that the former members of the Indian Independence League are bending efforts to bring Rama Murti before the bar of justice.

The fact of the case is that the treasure and jewels, on the Japanese surrender in world war second, were brought by plane to Tokyo via Formosa by Appadurai Subbier Ayar, who was minister of Information in the Provisional Azad Hind Government of Netaji Bose. Ayar, who is now a regional officer of the Central Board of Film Censors, Government of India, Bombay, handed over the treasure and jewels packed in three ~~boxes~~ boxes to Rama Murti and received from him a blank receipt.

Ministry of Home Affairs

1662/53-P.S.


14/3/53.

No sooner had Rama Murti received the treasure and jewels, than he started converting them into cash through accomplices. It must be pointed out that soon after the Japanese capitulation, Rama Murti became a daily visitor to the then British Military Mission in Tokyo and not only did he give information against Indians and about the Azad Hind Movement to the British intelligence officers but in collusion with some of them disposed of a part of the treasure and jewels.

Until after the termination of World War II, Rama Murti had very little money. But between 1946 and 1948 he suddenly became a very rich man, because he had used a portion of the looted wealth to run a black market operation in Tokyo -- an operation which he had concealed behind the false front of a trader. During the allied occupation period he was nearly convicted on several occasions for conduction widespread black market activities.

I and all former league members in Japan, are always, prepared to stand by the facts revealed in this letter, because these facts are absolutely true.

Yours trully,


V.B. Sheth, Former Secretary of Indian
Independence League in Japan, Tokyo.

Dated 18th February 1953.

Address- Masago cho no.30, Bunkyo-ku,
Tokyo, Japan.

To,

The Home Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi. India.

Extracts from the Mainichi, Tokyo, dated 27th January 1953.

(4)

Chandra Bose's ashes found in Tokyo, unveil 7 year secret
Repercussions feared

By James E. Brantz and Denis D. Dennis
Staff writers

The ashes of Subhas Chandra Bose, war time Indian leader for Independence, may soon be sent back to India after more than seven years of secret keeping in a Japanese temple in Tokyo, it was learned ~~today~~ Monday.

During a reorganization of the Indo-Japanese Brotherhood Association at Hotel Koraku, Tokyo on Monday, it was revealed by Buddhist priest Kyoei Mochizuki of Renkoji Temple, Koenji, Tokyo that the ashes of the leader of the Indian Independence League had been given to him in September 1945, to keep secretly and may soon be sent back to India.

Bose was killed when the plane in which he was en route to Japan crashed on Taiwan right after the termination of the war in 1945. His ashes were brought to Japan by members of the Japanese Army who attempted to place them in a temple for safe keeping. Due to the notoriety of this leader many temples refused to accept the ashes until Kyoei Mochizuki agreed to keep them.

The Indian Independence League was an organization that fought on the side of the Japanese and against the British during the war.

V.B. Sheth, an Indian importer who is newly elected director of the Indo-Japanese Brotherhood Association stated that the location of Bose's ashes was revealed in 1945 but that the story was quickly hushed up by the Occupation Forces because of its explosive nature.

According to Sheth, who was wartime secretary of the Indian Independence League and made broadcasts to India in the name of the League, the redisclosure of Bose's remains may unhinge a whole series of repercussions involving what Sheth declared to be a fortune in jewels and cash which is unvaluated.

The case now involves Rama Murti, an indian importer who according to Sheth, appropriated a large fortune for his own use at the end of the war when the league collapsed. Sheth also accuses other high Indian officials of the defunct League of making themselves rich at the expense of the Indian people, who had donated billions of yens to the league, before and during the war.

Murti was recently found to be involved in a customs violation, as a result of which his wife was arreasted by the Japanese officials. Murti and his wife, freed on bail pending trial, fled to India with absconded fund according to Sheth.

Sheth also implicates former japanese military chiefs, most of them are now confined ~~to~~ in Sugamo prision.

I was a tool of Murti's during the war, Sheth declared. "Had I known that he was going to steal the money which rightfully belonged to the Indian people I would have had nothing to do with him.

Sheth believes that India would like the return of Bose's ashes. Sheth believes that India should erect a monument to Bose who fought and died for Indian Independence.

Extracys from The Mainichi, Tokyo dated 29th January 1953.

*I still dont believe Netaji is dead" : Das

-Ex Minister on Mainichi report -

United press

Bangkok Jan.28- "I still dont believe the Mainichi report that Netaji Bose is dead and that his ashes are being kept at the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo. If he is dead, I believe the previous charge of the responsibility lies with the japanese" Debnath Das, former minister of Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Government, told the united press today.

Das said The Mainichi description of Bose, using the term "notoriety" served to confirm his statement to the United press that the Bose-Japanese relations were very strained during the latter part of the war as well as adding more doubt of the "authenticity of the accident theory of the plane's burning."

"Netaji Bose was as much respected as Mahatma Gandhi in the whole of India. His historic patriotic activities during the war were appreciated by both Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. Bose today stands as one of the greatest national heroes," Das said.

Das warned this matter of (Bose's reported death) concerns the whole of India and it wouldn't be hushed by those concerned".

Das today added two more points to the Bose riddle:

1. Bose and party planned to be air dropped into a small village in India and not go to Tokyo as it happened.

2. The billions of rupees worth of Gold loaded in three suitcases taken in the plane in which Bose was reported to have met with the accident has never been accounted for.

He said after the Japanese surrender on August 15 a top ranking officer of the Indian national Army as well as the members of the Azad Hind Government planned to be airdropped in a small village in India, where they could organize a revolution against the British on Indian soil.

Das recalled at the time that both Gandhi and Nehru were in Jail.

He said the Japanese advised they take a detour via Saigon in order to fool the allies but at Saigon, even to Bose's surprise the Japanese changed the plan suddenly and decided to fly Bose, with colonel Rehman to Tokyo.

Asked whether he had any comment on the account published in the Mainichi about the appropriations money having been contributed to the Indian national Army, Das said, "It's up to the ex Indian Independence League members there to investigate the case. What I'm concerned over is the treasure that went with the Netaji from Saigon-- millions of rupees worth of gold, loaded in three suitcases. This, too, can not easily be hushed up".

Extracts from the Mainichi, Tokyo, dated 1st February 1953.
Jewels worth \$ 1 million said turned over to Murti

-Not in same plane carrying Bose --

By James E. Braatz staff write

The jewels collected by the Indian Independence Army in 1945 and placed in the custody of the leader of the army, Chandra Bose, did not accompany Bose on the fatal plane crash on Taiwan, it was disclosed Saturday by Indian A.M. Nair, because he said the plane was overloaded.

Nair was liaison officer in 1945 between the Indian Independence League and the Japanese. He was the founder of the league some years before.

"The jewels, collected mostly from the Indians of Burma were packed for an airdrop if necessary into three boxes" Nair said. "They were put in the care of Appadurai Subbier Ayer, who was propaganda minister for the Provisional Government of Azad Hind."

Ayer is at present regional officer, central Board of Film Censors, Government of India, Bombay.

*Ayer followed in the next plane with these boxes and he did not learn of Bose's death until he arrived in Tokyo. Three days after Ayer landed in Japan he turned these three boxes over to Rama Murti and received for them a blank receipt" Nair said.

Murti has since left Japan for India under mysterious circumstances.

Ayer, according to Nair, informed him of this receipt and has since shown it to a number of Indians both in Japan and in India.

These jewels, estimated at a million dollars, have never been accounted for "declared Nair. "They only record that exists of them will be this receipt. It is rather difficult to understand how a man of Ayer's intelligence could have turned these boxes over to Murti and received for them a blank receipt.

An accounting for the funds of the Indian Independence League in Japan has never been made, according to L.R.Miglani, who was a broadcaster in Japan for the League during the war.

Miglani stated Saturday that shortly after the war ended the members of the league in Tokyo, including himself, gathered together with Rama Murti at the Dai Ichi Hotel in Tokyo and demanded from Murti, who was secretary-treasurer of the League in Japan, a full accounting of the league's funds."Murti refused to make any accounting or produce any records whatsoever, said Miglani.

Extract from Nippon Times, Tokyo dated 5th November 1952.

Indian businessman reported arreasted.

Kyodo

Yokohama nov.4- Yokohama Municipal police arreasted J.Murti, 34 year old Indian trader, today on suspicion of evasion of Customs duty amounting to yens 1316000.

According to police, Murti, in conspiracy with a former Finance Ministry official in charge of tariff business, around late march of this year forged a tariff payment certificate and evaded customs of 100 cases of Imported chewing gum.

The former finance ministry official, Morio Washiyama, 24, was recently indicted by procurators on charges of violating the Tariff Law.

Extracts from Nippon Times, Tokyo, dated 23rd December 1952.

Five are indicted in Contraband Case.

Five suspected traffickers in contraband including a japanese woman of Indian nationality Mrs Gita Murti, executive director of the ~~East~~ Far East Trading Company of Asagaya, Suginami ward, Tokyo and Yokohama Customs officials, were indicted Monday for violation of the Customs Law, reports Kyodo.

The charge filed by the Yokohama District Procurator's office is that Mrs Gita Murti, Yutakata Sakamoto, 26 in charge of cargo at Tokyo Station of the Yokohama Customs House and a former official at the same station and two others conspired to evade import duties amounting to yen 1500000 that should have been paid on 200 cases of coffee, 260 cases of chewing gum, 30 cases of caremels and eight cases of cheese on five occasions beginning ~~in~~ february 14 last.

Min. of S.A.

C.J.K. Br.

D.925-00453

The NGO Br. have papers on the subject. This receipt may be transferred to them. We have no ltr. on the subject.

MD
4/3. He
4/3/53.

NGO Br

Sh
8.3.53

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

File No.
Serial No.

A.2
Letter
Draft Memorandum
Telegram

1. Date of despatch.

No.

Dated

2. List of enclosures.

12/1/21
11/1/21
10/1/21
9/1/21
8/1/21
7/1/21
6/1/21
5/1/21
4/1/21
3/1/21
2/1/21
1/1/21

12-A (9)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI.

M/V 25/2

—

Forwarded to...the Ministry of.....
External Affairs, New Delhi,....
for disposal.

The communication has been
not been acknowledged.

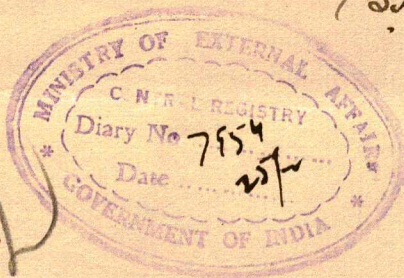
Dr Chopra

for Principal *Private Secretary.*

Prime Minister's Sectt. U.O. No. *164 Pij*
dated.....*24.2.53*..... */S3*

HE
P. M. S. 3. *CSK*
28

68PM-60,000-13-2-53-PP.



D. 925-egu/53 16/4P (iii)/53 10

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Yours trully,

V.B. Sheth
V.B.Sheth, Former Secretary of Indian
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Dated 18th February 1953.

Address- Masago cho no.30, Bunkyo-ku,
Tokyo, Japan.

To,

Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

-- I N D I A --

Chandra Bose's ashes found in Tokyo, unveil 7 year secret
Repercussions feared

By James E. Brantz and Denis D. Dennis
Staff writers

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-Ex Minister on Mainichi report -

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from Nippon Times, Tokyo dated 5th November 1952.

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Who Grabbed The Vast Treasure Of Netaji Subhas?

(Continued From Page 1)

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ABSOLUTELY TRUE

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(10) D. No. 672-1169/53
"Amrit Bazar Patrika"
Calcutta. Feb. 24, 1953

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Nahas & His Wife To Stand Trial Alleged Profiteering On Huge Cotton Deal

CAIRO, Feb. 23.

Egypt's Political Corruption Investigation Committee decided on Monday to place former elader of the Wafd Party, ex-Premier Mustapha El ahas, his wife and seven of his colleagues on trial, on charges of illegally-profiteering in cotton and making personal profits at public expense.

Included with Nahas and his wife on the indictment were five former Cabinet Ministers — Fuad Serag El Din, Zaki Abdel Motaal, Abdel Fattah El Tawil, Mohamed Ali Pashdy and Abdel Latif Mahmoud and two former Wafdist Deputies, Ahmed El Wakil and Abdel Hamid El Wakil.

Nahas and the former Ministers were accused of enabling a Six-Company Cotton trust to make astronomical profits. His Trust was charged with paying ex-King Farouk a 75,000-pound bribe to get legislation passed on a cotton deal.

The two Deputies and Madame ahas were alleged to have exploited their relationship with the ex-Premier to make personal gains at the expense of public interest.

The trials will be before the Anti-Corruption Court, a date has been set for the hearing.—(U.P.A.)

reasons for a decline in traffic receipts which were being gone into by the various railways would be thoroughly examined by the statisticians and experts in the Railways Board in order to devise methods to deal with the situation. He said: "It is our intention to ensure that the surplus should under no circumstance come down below the figure of nine crores that the railways were showing now."

Mr. Shastri said that the concessional tickets already announced should bring additional revenue. These tickets, which were at present on an experimental basis, might be extended if the results were satisfactory. Regarding goods traffic he said that the budget estimates for 1953/54 were not just optimistic as suggested, but were actually a bit conservative.

The demand that a former official of the now defunct Indian Independence League in Japan should be made to give a full account of this vast treasure which he received in Tokyo from a former Minister of the Azad Hind Government after the reported death of Netaji, is made by the Indian community in Japan.

This official of the League, an Indian, who later developed into a rich business man, is stated to have left Japan and is reported to be now in India.

Sri V. B. Sheth, former Secretary of the Indian Independence League in Japan, Tokyo, in a letter dated 18th February, '53 addressed to Amrita Bazar Patrika writes:

"I shall be highly grateful if you will kindly publish the following account in your esteemed journal, especially when it reflects the deep concern of the Indian community in Japan regarding the restoration of the treasure and jewels of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Indian community in Japan is eager to compel Mr. M., a former official of the defunct Indian Independence League in Eastern Asia, to give a full account of what he has done with the said treasure and jewels the value of which in August 1945 was estimated at Rs. 80 lakhs.

It is known to every member of the Indian community in Japan that he through accomplices, Indians, Japanese and British, have disposed of the said treasure and jewels and has thus enriched himself so much so that he has become a multi-millionaire. Further Mr. M. has never accounted for the League funds which were held in his custody.

PROSECUTION AWAITS HIM

All former members of the Indian Independence League in Japan are eager in this matter. They earnestly request you and the Indian public to make all possible agitation for the recovery of the said treasure and jewels. Mr. M. is at present in India, probably in a New Delhi hotel. In Tokyo the Customs authorities are awaiting for his return in order to prosecute him for evasion of Customs

(Continued On Page 5 Col. 2)

Secretary
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EA Ministry (Shri R.K. Nohra)
P.S. to Secy. to Govt. No. 2409 25/2/53

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(Continued From Page 1)

duties to the tune of about 2000,000 yens.

Also the attached extracts from the English Mainichi, Tokyo, and Nippon Times, Tokyo, will indicate that the former members of the Indian Independence League are bending efforts to bring Mr. M. before the bar of justice.

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9th 2/3/53 N90.

Mr. Murti, one of the brothers is at present in New Delhi. He came & called on me the other day with his Japanese wife.

Amie K. Harty 26.2.53

Another copy of this press cutting has been seen by [signature] 2.3.53

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

Draft Letter
Memorandum
Telegram

File No.

Serial No.

1. Date of Despatch

No.

Dated

2. List of enclosures